

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims Status

Claims 21 through 24 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 through 4, 6 through 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, and 25 have been canceled. Claim 21 is the only independent claim pending in the application.

Allowable Claims

Applicants kindly thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 21 through 24 are allowed for the reasons succinctly set forth in the Office Action. Without conceding to the propriety of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action, and solely to expedite prosecution in the present application, Claims 1 through 4, 6 through 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, and 25 have been canceled, leaving only Claims 21 through 24 remaining. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Closing Comments

This Amendment could not have been presented earlier in the prosecution, inasmuch as it was earnestly believed that the claims heretofore on file were allowable. The amendment merely cancels claims, and thus presents no new issues. Moreover, it is believed that the Examiner's familiarity with the present application will allow full consideration hereof without the expenditure of undue time and effort.

Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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